Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00952 091350Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-08 NSAE-00
ICA-11 TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 PA-01 SP-02 ACDA-12 IO-13 L-03 NSC-05
NRC-05 OES-09 SS-15 CEQ-01 PM-05 SAS-02 /152 W
----------013030 100404Z /13
R 091235Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2579
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0952

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, CG, GW, BR
SUBJECT: OTRAG DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) KINSHASA 8292 (B) KINSHASA 3411 (C) STUTTGART 1436
(D) STUTTGART 1228

1. KLAUS PIEKATZ, OTRAG'S ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR FOR ZAIRE, CALLED AT CONSULATE ON AUGUST 8 TO TALK ABOUT RECENT OTRAG DEVELOPMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LUBUMB 00952 091350Z

2. PIEKATZ SAID HE HAD BEEN BUSY DURING RECENT WEEKS ORGANIZING OTRAG EXHIBIT AT KINSHASA NATIONAL FAIR (REFTEL A). OTRAG PRESIDENT LUTZ KAYSER WAS SCHEDULED TO COME TO KINSHASA TO PRESIDE OVER OPENING OF EXHIBIT AS PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT TO COUNTER ADVERSE PUBLICITY (ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED AS SEMINAR IN EARLY JUNE PER REFTEL B). OVER WEEKEND OF JULY 15, MOBUTU ASKED OTRAG TO CANCEL KAYSER VISIT BE-

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

CAUSE HE DID NOT WANT LARGE VOLUME OF OTRAG-RELATED PUBLICITY JUST PRIOR TO HIS VISIT TO KHARTOUM FOR OAU SUMMIT ON JULY 18.

3. MOBUTU PROPOSED TO OTRAG THAT FOR NEXT LAUNCH SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER (REFTEL C) ALL KINSHASA-ACCREDITED AMBASSADORS AND PRESIDENTS OF CONCERNED NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES (I.E. KENYA, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE) BE INVITED TO DISPEL MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT PURPOSE OF PROJECT. PRESIDENT WANTED OTRAG TO HANDLE TRANSPORT AND ACCOMODATIONS TO LAUNCH SITE, BUT OTRAG COUNTERED WITH PROPOSAL THAT COMPANY COULD HANDLE FACILITIES AT SITE BUT NOT TRANSPORT FOR LARGE GROUP.

4. REGARDING PROBLEMS WITH GERMAN EXPORT CONTROLS OF ROCKET COMPONENTS (REFTEL D), PIEKATZ SAID COMPANY IS CONSIDERING ADDING SMALL ASSEMBLY PLANT AT PLATEAU LAUNCH SITE WHERE MORE CONTROVERSIAL COMPONENTS WOULD BE PUT INTO FINAL FORM.

5. PIEKATZ NOTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONTINUING WITH BRAZIL FOR A LAUNCH SITE IN THAT COUNTRY. OTRAG FEELS COMPANY MUST HAVE LAUNCH SITES IN AT LEAST TWO PLACES IN CASE POLITICAL INSTABILITY OR OTHER PROBLEMS DEVELOP WHICH IMPEDE LAUNCHES. SIGNING OF CONTRACT WITH BRA-
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PAGE 03 LUBUMB 00952 091350Z

ZILIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT MEAN AN END TO OTRAG OPERATIONS IN ZAIRE.
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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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